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3 **ABSTRACT**

4 A cross link system provides stability to spinal rods by maintaining a set distance
5 between the rods. The cross link has a bar with connectors on each end formed with
6 grooves that engage each of the spinal rods. Each of the connectors has a cam that
7 can be manipulated to obstruct the groove and provide a friction fit between the spinal
8 rod and the cross link. The cams have locking nuts that prevent disengagement of the
9 cam and rod. The bar has two shafts interconnected by a bifurcated pin with
10 upstanding ends. a piston is located between the upstanding ends and diverts shear
11 forces along the longitudinal axis of the bar.